

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR, IN, US

SUBJ: JIMSON WEED SEED IN MILO

REF: NEW DELHI 2794

1. USDA OFFICIAL MET WITH BANERJI MARCH 13 TO REVIEW STATUS JIMSON SEED PROBLEM AND ATTEMPT RECONCILE DIFFERING NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON REPORTS REGARDING JIMSON SEED TOXICITY. USDA OFFICIAL TOLD BANERJI THAT INFO NOW RPT NOW AVAILABLE INDICATES DEGREE OF TOXICITY JIMSON SEED NOT RPT NOT CLEARLY ESTABLISHED AND MORE WORK WILL BE NEEDED TO DETERMINE EXACT DEGREE OF TOXICITY. BANERJI APPARENTLY BASED HIS EARLY REPORT TO NEW DELHI ON AUTHORITY OF 1965 USDA LETTER SAYING THAT JIMSON SEED NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERED POISONOUS BY US GRAIN STANDARDS. WE HAVE INFORMED BANERJI NEW INFO HAS BECOME AVAILABLE SINCE 1965 LETTER WAS WRITTEN.

2. USDA OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD BANERJI THAT USDA INTENDS TO
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WORK WITH FDA TO DEVELOP STANDARD AND TOLERANCE THAT MIGHT BE USED FOR SPECS BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES WANTING TO BUY US SORGHUM FOR FOOD. USDA OFFICIAL TOLD BANERJI THAT USDA FEELS JIMSON SEED NEED BE CLEANED FROM SORGHUM EITHER IN US PRIOR TO EXPORT OR AFTER ARRIVAL IN INDIA IF SORGHUM TO BE USED FOR FOOD. COST OF CLEANING IN RESPECTIVE LOCATION WOULD BE MAJOR DETERMINANT OF WHERE IT WOULD BE DONE. BANERJI EXPLORING CLEANING COST HERE BUT NOT YET READY MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO NEW DELHI. CLEANING COST IN US APPARENTLY NOT AS EXPENSIVE AS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. PROBLEM IS THAT FACILITIES FOR CLEANING ARE LIMITED IN US AND THIS WOULD SLOW SHIPMENT. PROBABLY CHEAPER TO HAVE CLEANING DONE IN INDIA. USDA WORKING WITH BANERJI TO DEVELOP SYSTEM TO SPOT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN MILO CARGO NOW AFLOAT FOR INDIA. FYI: USDA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT FDA INSPECTS FOODGRAIN DESTINED FOR EXPORTS. SYSTEM BASICALLY ONE OF INSPECTION OF FOOD FOR US CONSUMPTION WHETHER DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED OR IMPORTED. IT NORMAL PRACTICE THAT IMPORTING COUNTRY POLICE IMPORTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY MEET THEIR STANDARDS AND TOLERANCE. THIS POINT NEEDS TO BE PURSUED FURTHER WITH FDA BEFORE DEFINITE ANSWER GIVEN. HOPEFULLY THIS CAN BE DONE MARCH 14. END FYI.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESS, WE ATTEMPTING TO EMPHASIZE THAT US GRAIN STANDARDS ARE NOT DESIGNED FOR SPECIFIC END USE (FEED OR FOOD) BUT INSTEAD DESIGNED TO DESCRIBE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GRAIN IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADING. WE ALSO SUGGEST YOU MAY WISH DRAW ON FINAL PARA STATE 45510.

4. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH BANERJI HERE, USDA DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE AT THIS STAGE SEND TECHNICIAN TO INDIA, BUT WILL KEEP POSSIBILITY UNDER CONSIDERATION. ROGERS

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